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LB 84

has been going on for years.

SENATOR KOCH: Back from five to three?

SENATOR CARSTEN: I beg your pardon?

SENATOR KOCH: In other words, if we go from a period of five years to three, that that still is within the constitutional parameter?

SENATOR CARSTEN: It is as far as I know but I will find out for sure and be positive about it, if you would like, Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Dworak in his efforts to maintain the 11% that was originally in the bill in terms of interest rates. If one looks at the present situation, you will look at and find that at 9% it is still much more economical to borrow money from the county than it is to go out and borrow money from any other bank or institution, savings institution, or other places where one could acquire funding. The situation here, and the committee decided that this would, the committee looked at this and said that they felt that 9% was adequate but I think that that is a mistake and I argued against it in the committee and I would like to argue against it here on the floor. We are encouraging people not to pay their bills and those citizens who pay their bills will be penalized. They will be penalized because their tax levies will have to be increased as they were in Douglas County a couple of years ago, increased to pay those bills that other people have not paid. I think the situation is very critical. It is critical for very simple reasons and simple reasons only. As the auditor said when it found that Douglas County had a great fiscal crisis, the auditor said that you have to anticipate that some people will not pay their bills, and in the process, others had to raise the mill levies to make up for those lost dollars. If we have this 11%, and maybe it ought to be 12%, it would be easier to figure, and I really think that 12% is a much more reasonable figure. Also it works out real good, 1% a month, but the 11% is absolutely necessary in order to encourage people to pay their bills or to go borrow the money to pay their bills. Other citizens have to do that and I think that is only reasonable to ask. So for that reason I support Senator Dworak's efforts to